

1

Population Characteristics

Highlights

- Females make up the majority of the state's population—50.9 percent.
- In 2000, Iowa ranked second nationally in the percentage of population over 85 years of age, third in the percentage of population over 75 years of age, and fourth in the percentage of population over 65 years of age.
- Sixty-two percent of Iowa's female population reside in urban areas, an increase over 1950 when just 49 percent lived in urban areas.
- In 2000, fewer Iowa women than ever before were married—57 percent.
- The number of divorces obtained each year in the state has remained steady for eighteen years; in 2001 there were 9,542.
- Between 1970 and 2000, the number of single-parent, female-headed households increased 142 percent, from 26,570 to 64,367, while the number of single-parent, male-headed households increased 416 percent, from 4,301 to 22,221.

—Chapter 1—

Population Characteristics

1.1 Introduction

Women have comprised the majority of Iowa's population for more than 50 years, a majority that increases with age. Public policy initiatives must address the needs of older women, as well as support single heads of households.

1.2 Population

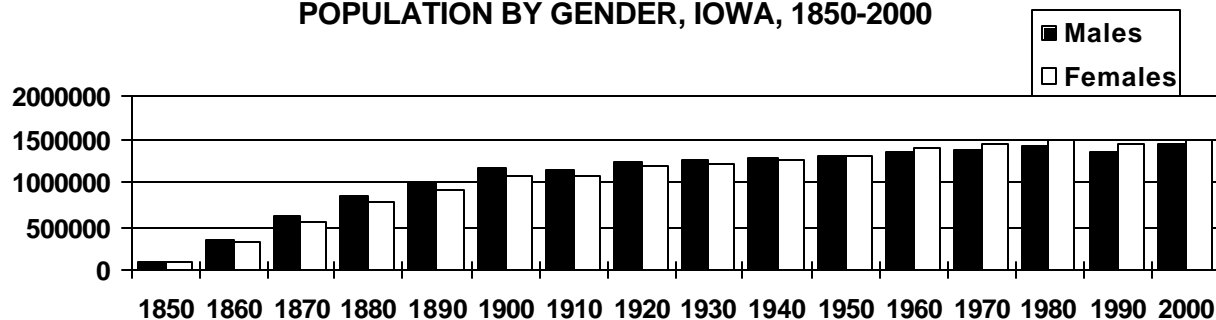
Until 1950, males outnumbered females in Iowa. Since then, females have remained the majority in the state. In 2000, females represented more than one-half, or 50.9 percent, of the state's population, outnumbering males 1,490,809 to 1,435,515. (SEE FIGURE 1.1)

Iowa's overall population increased five percent in the 1950s.¹ Throughout the 1980s, Iowa's population

declined. 2000 census data show an increase of 4.1 percent in the female population and a 6.7 percent increase in the male population since 1990.

Iowa's population consists of many racial and ethnic groups. Whites comprise the largest racial group, totaling 93.9 percent of the population as reported in 2000 census data. (SEE FIGURE 1.2)

Figure 1.1
POPULATION BY GENDER, IOWA, 1850-2000



SEE TABLE 1.1 IN APPENDIX SOURCE: Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University

Figure 1.2
POPULATION OF GENDER AND MINORITY STATUS, IOWA, 2000* **

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>%</u>
TOTAL POPULATION	2,926,324	100.0%
Female	1,490,809	50.9%
White	2,748,640	93.9%
African American	61,853	2.1%
Asian, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander	37,644	1.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	8,989	0.3%
Other Races	37,420	1.3%
Two or More Races	31,420	1.1%
Hispanic	82,473	2.8%
TOTAL MINORITY	215,980	7.4%

*May not sum due to rounding

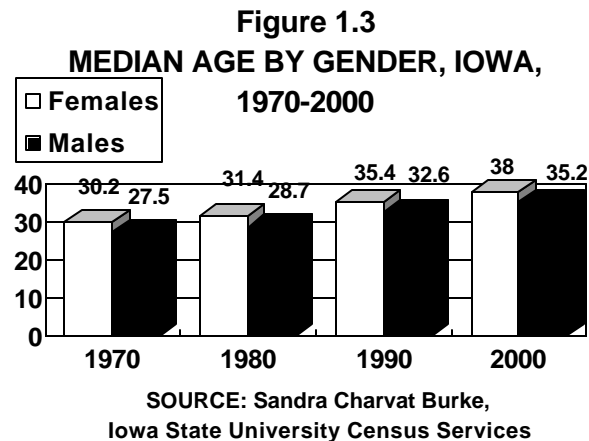
**Hispanic included in total minority, also counted within other categories in population

SOURCE: 2000 Census Data

1.3 Age

The median age, or the point at which half of the residents are older and half are younger, for females has been greater than that of males between 1940 and 1990, and continues to rise. In 2000, the median age was 38.0 years for females and 35.2 for males. In 1990, the median age was 35.4 for females, compared to 32.6 for males. (SEE FIGURE 1.3)

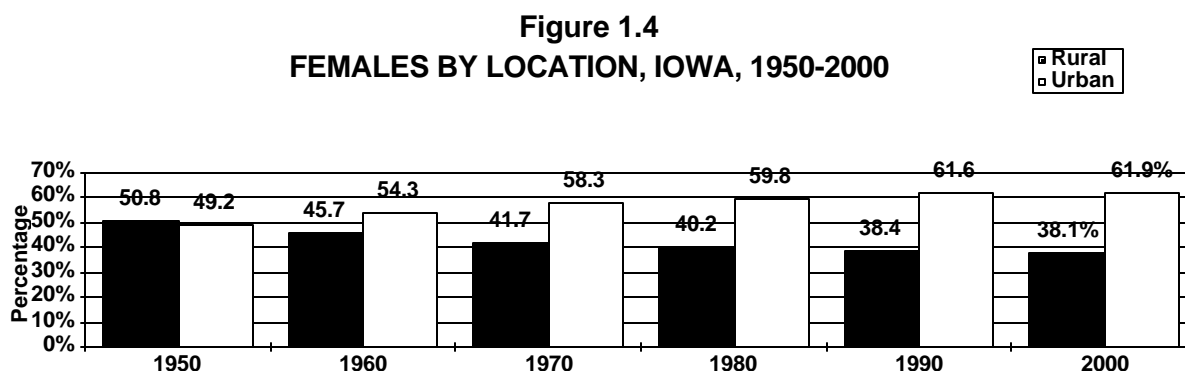
Also on the rise is Iowa's elderly population. In 2000, Iowa ranked second in the percentage of population over 85 years of age, third in the percentage of population over 75 years of age, and fourth in the percentage of population **over 65 years of age**. Fifty-nine percent of persons over 65 in Iowa are women.



1.4 Population Distribution/Homelessness

According to the 2000 census, approximately six out of every ten females, or 61.9 percent, who resided in Iowa lived in urban areas. This is an increase from 1950, when only 49.2 percent of Iowa's female population resided in urban areas. (SEE FIGURE 1.4)

Women comprise well over half the adult homeless population. In 2001-2002 school year, an estimated 32,566 adults, children, and youth were homeless. The largest proportion of homeless individuals live in single-parent households. Sixty-one percent of homeless single adult households with children are headed by a woman. Family breakups and inability to pay rent are reported as the primary causes of homelessness, which indicates that family instability, such as domestic violence, is highly correlated with homeless families.³



SOURCE: U. S. Census and Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Service

1.5 Marriage, Divorce, and Children

In 2000, fewer Iowa women than ever before were married—57 percent. (SEE FIGURES 1.5 AND 1.6) The decline in the number of marriages can be partially attributed to Iowa's age structure.⁴ Its older population is one in which there are fewer marriages. Sixty-one percent of those between the ages of 65-74, 37.9 percent between 75-84, and 20.7 percent 85 and older were married in 2000. (SEE FIGURE 1.7)

While the number of marriages in the state has declined, there have been modest gains in the number of divorces since the advent of Iowa's "no fault" divorce legislation in 1970. The number of divorces from 1970 to

1971 went from 7,188 to 7,772. Since then, it peaked at 12,071 in 1981 and has leveled to an average of 9,726 per year, which it has maintained for five years. In 2001, there were 9,542 divorces. (SEE FIGURE 1.8)

Since the peak, the average number of divorces that involved children under the age of 18 has also remained steady. In 2001, 5,160, or 54 percent of the divorces, involved children.⁵

Including those who have been divorced, widowed, or never married, the number of female-headed households, no husband present, with children increased 142 percent between 1970 and 2000 while the number of male-headed households, no wife present, increased 416 percent. (SEE FIGURE 1.9)

Figure 1.5
MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES, IOWA, 1890-2000

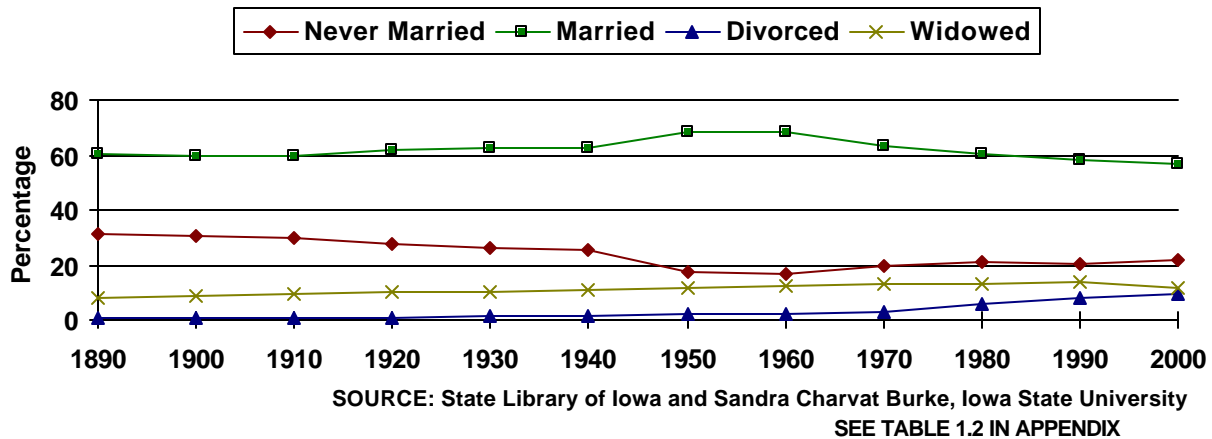


Figure 1.6
MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, IOWA, 2000

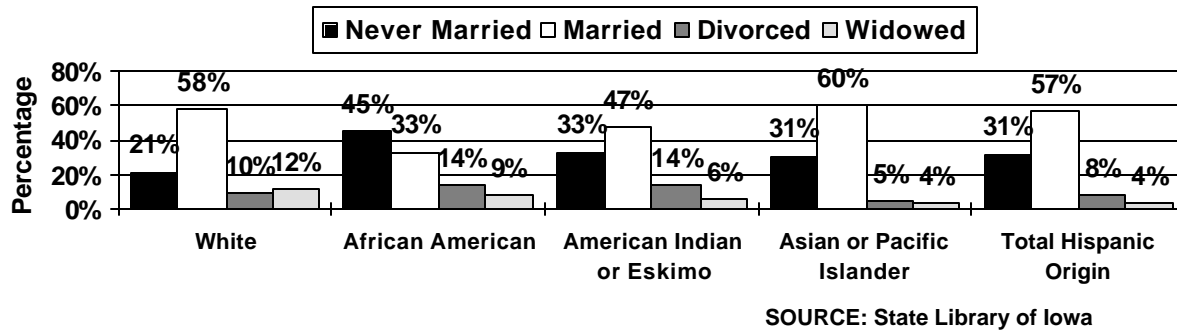


Figure 1.7
MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES BY AGE, IOWA, 2000

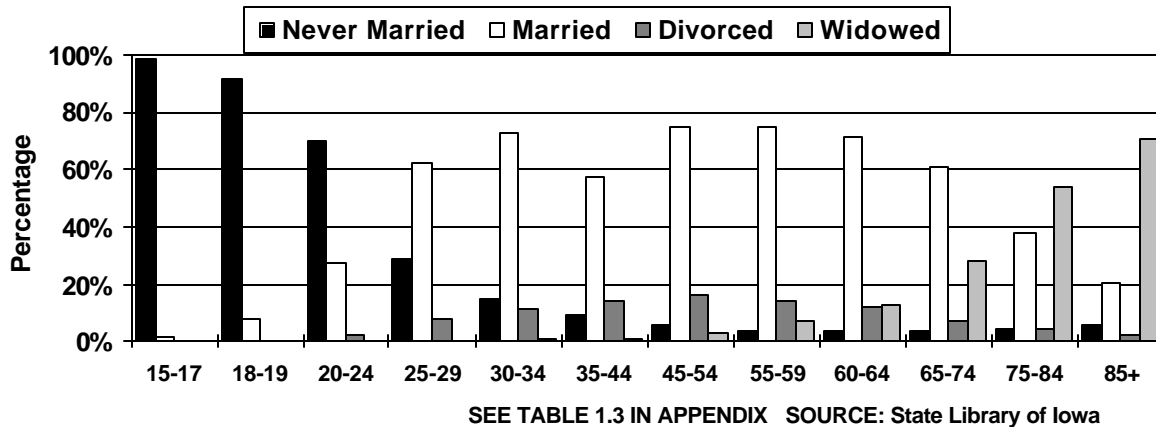


Figure 1.8
DISSOLUTIONS, IOWA, 1960-2001

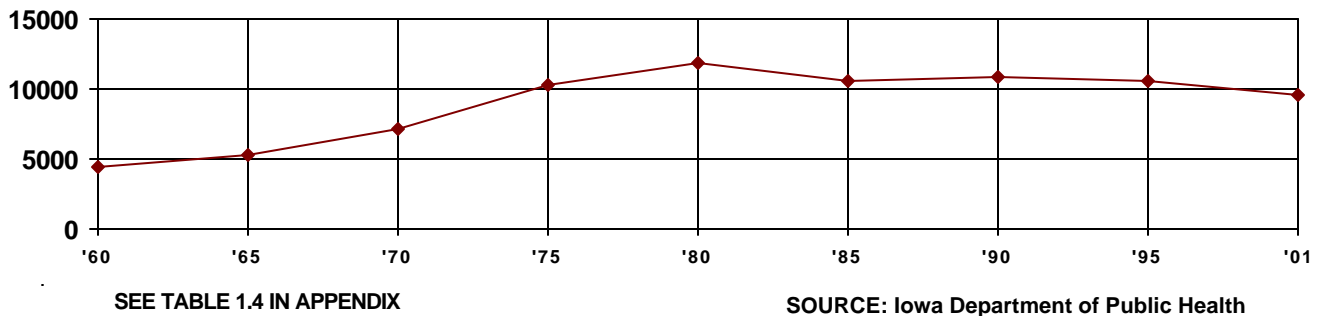
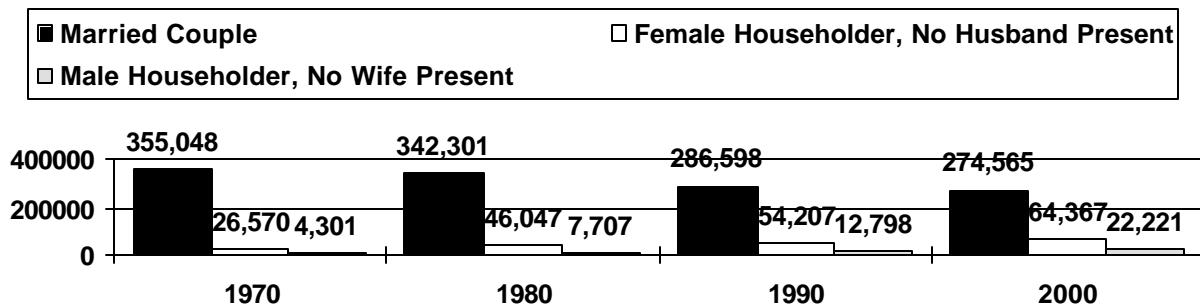


Figure 1.9
FAMILIES WITH OWN CHILDREN BY FAMILY TYPE, IOWA, 1970-2000



1.6 Forward-looking Strategies

- As Iowa's population continues to age, issues regarding health care for the elderly, caregiving, and elder abuse must be carefully addressed. More support programs for family caregivers, especially relative to care of disabled or elderly persons in their own homes, must be developed; statewide implementation of integrated case management programs for the frail elderly is needed; Medicaid Home and Community-based waiver for the elderly should be expanded statewide to make more in-home services available; legislative action to increase pay for caregivers, so that the occupation is deemed professional, will result in better health care for the elderly.

- With Iowa's aging population and women living longer than men, more women than ever before are becoming widows. Women often become displaced homemakers after the death of a spouse (or a divorce), and experience subsequent financial

hardships. A need exists for the continued support of displaced homemaker programs in the state, particularly through increased funding for programs through the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, Iowa Department of Human Rights.

- The largest growing population of the homeless in Iowa is women with children, fleeing from violent homes. More services need to be provided to ensure adequate housing and safety for these homeless families. Furthermore, a need exists for governmental funding for homeless shelters, transitional housing, and low-income housing.

- Adequate awards and enforcement of child support are imperative.

- Equitable divorce settlements will provide an equal standard of living for both.

¹ Willis Goudy and Sandra Charvat Burke, Iowa State University Census Services, *Iowa's Counties: Selected Population Trends, Vital Statistics, and Socioeconomic Data*, October 1993.

² Iowa Department of Elder Affairs.

³ William D. Boettcher, Ph.D. for the Interagency Taskforce on Homelessness, *Iowa's Homeless Children/Youth and Their Families: Counts, Estimates, Characteristics, Needs, 2001-2002 School Year*, January 2003.

⁴ Willis Goudy, "Look at Divorce Numbers, Not Laws," *The Des Moines Register*, January 23, 1996.

⁵ Iowa Department of Public Health, *Vital Statistics of Iowa* for years 1975-2001.

Appendix

Chapter 1: Population Characteristics

Table 1.1

POPULATION BY GENDER, IOWA, 1850-2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>
1850	91,162	101,052
1860	320,420	354,493
1870	568,103	625,917
1880	776,479	848,136
1890	917,630	994,453
1900	1,075,004	1,156,849
1910	1,076,600	1,148,171
1920	1,174,629	1,229,392
1930	1,215,838	1,255,101
1940	1,257,774	1,280,494
1950	1,310,790	1,310,283
1960	1,398,490	1,359,047
1970	1,451,509	1,372,867
1980	1,497,418	1,416,390
1990	1,431,953	1,344,802
2000	1,490,809	1,435,515

Table 1.2

MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES, IOWA, 1890-2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Never Married</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Divorced</u>	<u>Widowed</u>
1890	31.0	60.4	.5	8.1
1900	30.7	59.9	.6	8.6
1910	29.8	60.0	.7	9.1
1920	27.4	61.6	.9	9.9
1930	26.0	62.3	1.4	10.3
1940	25.1	62.3	1.7	10.9
1950	17.8	68.4	2.1	11.6
1960	16.9	68.1	2.4	12.6
1970	20.0	63.5	3.0	13.4
1980	21.3	60.2	5.5	13.0
1990	20.5	58.0	8.0	13.6
2000	21.8	57.0	9.6	11.6

Table 1.3

MARITAL STATUS OF FEMALES BY AGE, 2000

<u>Age</u>	<u>Never Married</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Divorced</u>	<u>Widowed</u>
15-17	98.8	1.1	.0	.1
18-19	91.6	8.0	.2	.1
20-24	70.1	27.4	2.3	.2
25-29	29.2	62.7	7.9	.2
30-34	15.2	73.1	11.3	.4
35-44	9.1	75.4	14.5	1.0
45-54	5.7	75.3	16.2	2.8
55-59	3.8	75.0	14.2	6.9
60-64	3.6	71.5	11.9	13.1
65-74	3.2	61.2	7.4	28.2
75-84	4.0	37.9	4.3	53.8
85+	6.0	20.7	2.1	71.2

Table 1.4

DISSOLUTIONS, IOWA, 1960-2001

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>
1960	4,483	1981	12,071
1961	4,777	1982	10,869
1962	4,739	1983	10,588
1963	5,003	1984	10,509
1964	5,091	1985	10,525
1965	5,258	1986	10,324
1966	5,571	1987	10,527
1967	6,064	1988	10,808
1968	6,511	1989	10,507
1969	6,995	1990	10,913
1970	7,188	1991	10,939
1971	7,772	1992	10,924
1972	8,471	1993	10,700
1973	9,151	1994	10,885
1974	9,480	1995	10,545
1975	10,304	1996	10,347
1976	10,817	1997	9,712
1977	10,890	1998	9,880
1978	11,123	1999	9,737
1979	11,426	2000	9,756
1980	11,854	2001	9,542